

Boston National Historic Park Greening Charrette

October 28 – 31, 2002

Charlestown Navy Yard

Summary of Results

Executive Summary

Boston National Historic Park comprises several historic sites within Boston, including the Charlestown Navy Yard and the USS Constitution. The goal of this charrette was to develop specific actions that combine historic preservation and sustainability for the Park, with a focus on the Navy Yard. This event was the second in a series that will eventually reach all of the National Park Service Centers of Environmental Innovation.



A diverse group of National Park Service employees, including the Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent of Boston Historic Park, local architects and engineers, and other experts gathered at the Navy Yard for a two-day charrette. The event was preceded by a tour of the Navy Yard to highlight some of the critical issues that would be discussed. The tour addressed the history and critical concerns of the park.



In her welcoming remarks, Deputy Regional Director Sandy Walker noted the link between sustainability and historic preservation. Presentations followed on the Presidio's accomplishments in sustainable design within a historic setting, an overview of Boston National Historic Park, and sustainability initiatives in the Northeast Region. Then, experts introduced participants to key principles and opportunities in the topics to be addressed in the charrette: planning and environmental leadership, transportation, facilities design and construction, operations and maintenance, concessions, interpretation and education, and procurement.



Participants formed small work groups to address topics most relevant to Boston Historic Park. Each group developed a vision, established a “baseline” of current conditions and key issues, and suggested short-term, mid-term, and long-term goals and strategies, as well as “champions” to carry these goals forward.



At the conclusion of the final day, the work groups presented the results of their discussions. Superintendent Terry Savage selected several goals for immediate follow-up and other park employees added to this list of high priorities.

Overall the charrette was invigorating and filled with fun, creative, and thoughtful insights for a realistic and strategic approach to greening Boston Historic Park.

Priority Actions	
Actions	Champions
Communicate results of charrette to entire Boston Historic Park staff	Terry Savage and Dave Brouillette
Prepare a comprehensive strategic campus plan	Terry Savage
Develop a business plan for the Park	Terry Savage
Develop a comprehensive recycling plan	Gene Gabriel
Identify additional partners	Terry Savage, Dave Brouillette, Bill Foley
“Right size” the park vehicle fleet	Dave Brouillette and division chiefs
Re-activate the Green Team	Terry Savage
Try to get funding for developing an EMS that would link to campus plan and business plan	Ruth Raphael
Develop criteria for contracts, based on existing models	Bill Barlow and Marcy Beitel

The remainder of this report presents additional details on the results of the charrette.

Highlights of Work Group Recommendations:

GROUP 1 -- Building Capacity for Environmental Leadership

Vision: Integrated planning in which all plans are infused with sustainability ... Boston National Historic Park is viewed as a model ... Economic sustainability is reached along with environmental sustainability.



- Communicate charrette results to staff and partners
- Re-activate green team
- Develop an Environmental Management System (EMS)
- Consider a public relations event to highlight sustainability at the Navy Yard
- Prepare a business plan for the park
- Update the GMP with sustainability as an integral component

GROUP 2 -- Transportation

Vision: Coherent and easily understandable network to maximize visitors' use of public transportation ... Park vehicle fleet that meets needs and minimizes fossil fuel use and CO2 emissions ... Park vehicle fleet O&M that is as green as possible.

- Improve visitor transport – Provide better information on public transportation through Park Web site and brochures ... Investigate shuttle and trolley options ... Incorporate sustainable strategies in tour bus parking ... Install bike racks as part of installation of security structures



- Look at renewable energy sources for electric vehicle recharge
- “Right size” the fleet to improve overall efficiency and prepare a Fleet Management Plan ... Obtain more alternative fuel vehicles, including the employee shuttle to downtown Boston ... Use biolubricants
- Develop “take home” messages about transportation, such as amount of CO2 avoided by walking the distance



of the Freedom Trail, etc.

GROUP 3 – Facilities and Construction

Vision: Economic sustainability ... Improved functionality (campus concept) ... Showcase a comprehensive project such as Building 5 Visitor Center

- Develop a strategic campus plan for Navy Yard, as well as a comprehensive energy management/conservation plan and a business management plan
- Develop sustainability criteria for RFPs and RFQs, and park SOPs for planning, design, procurement, and products
- Complete at least one comprehensive, sustainable project (instead of the piecemeal approach dictated by funding)
- Implement a stormwater management program including rainwater collection and bioretention/ bioremediation
- LEED-certify all buildings to the extent possible
- Achieve economic sustainability - all projects revenue neutral or positive
- Integrate all sustainability efforts into interpretation



GROUP 4 – Operations and Maintenance

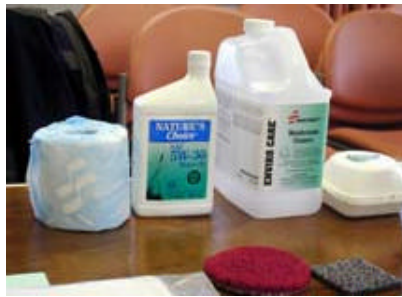
Vision: Maintenance becomes a proactive rather than reactive division ... Park maintenance optimizes resources use by minimizing waste, conserving energy and water, eliminating toxins, using recycled, renewable and green products and materials ... Green O&M is interpreted and shared broadly ... Staff level is adequate to enable success.

- Develop a comprehensive recycling program
- Review audit results with staff and get needed training and buy-in; assign responsibilities
- Investigate new janitorial products, in addition to



greener products now in use, and train staff on new products and processes

- Develop a stormwater and rainwater collection plan
- Develop a cyclic maintenance and prevention program



GROUP 5 – Interpretation and Education



Vision: Visitors and staff will be motivated by an understanding of the use of resources (energy, waste, water, etc.) through history and how decisions we make today affect the future.

- Design a logo for sustainability at Boston National Historic Park to use in waysides, on vehicles, etc.
- Work on Building 5 plans to green the scope and exhibits
- Review the Interpretation Plan: Weave sustainability messages into current programs
- Conduct tailgate and other staff training sessions
- Weave sustainability into the Teacher Resource Workshop
- Prepare exhibits on the electric vehicles and the use of resources through history
- Develop a “clean trail” along the Freedom Trail highlighting sustainability initiatives using the logo – involve partners along the Trail
- Tell the story of greening efforts – find better ways of promoting results of greening



Work Group Recommendations:

Each of the work groups developed short-term, mid-term, and long-term goals for their topic area. In addition, they considered the “baseline” or current conditions for that topic. Finally, they assigned “champions” where possible to ensure that each recommendation is carried out. The pages that follow present the results of their discussions.



Thanks to everyone...Boston Historic Park folks as well as the other steering committee members, facilitators, and energetic participants for making this Green Charrette a fun and productive event!